

ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS



AND THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL REVIEW.

No. 42.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1862.

ONE PENNY.

THE CHAMPION QUOITER CONTROVERSY.

The Proprietors of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS beg to announce that they have secured

WHOLE-PAGE PORTRAITS

OF

WALKINSHAW, of Carllops,

AND

M'GREGOR, of South Shields,

Which will appear in our next Number.

THE SPORTS, PASTIMES, AND HABITS OF OUR FATHERS.

In an account of London, written about 1174 (Richard Cœur de Lion), we have a description of the impenetrable forests (the present Marylebone) to the north of London, and of "a pleasant place called Smythefields, without one of the city gates, and even in the very suburbs. Here there is a celebrated rendezvous of fine horses to be sold. Thither come earls, barons, knights, and a swarm of citizens. 'Tis a pleasing sight to behold the smiling mugs so smoothly moving by raising and putting down alternately the two side feet together." From this it is evident that our ancestors broke in their horses to that unnatural paces now witnessed only in America. We find that in former times great complaints were made that the dealers in Smithfield, among other tricks, contrived to make the horses swallow live eels or snakes, their action in the bellies of the horses making them appear lively and frisky. The horse-races in Smithfield are then described (1174). But "on Shrove Tuesday the boys of all the schools of London bring to their masters each one his fighting-cock, and they are indulged all the morning with seeing their cocks fight in the schoolroom. After this all the boys go into Smithfield or Moorfield, in the suburbs, and address themselves to the famous game of football. The scholars of each school have their peculiar ball, and the paragon-trades have most of them theirs. The elders of the city, and the fathers, and the rich and the wealthy, do come on horseback to see the exercise of the youth. Every Sunday in Lent a nobler train of young men take the field after dinner, well mounted. The lay sons of the citizens rush out of the gates in shoals, armed with lances and shields; the younger sort with javelins pointed, but disarmed of their steel. They ape the feats of war, and act the sham fight. If the king happens to be near the city, many courtiers honour them with their presence,

together with the juvenile parts of the household of the earls, barons, and bishops. At Easter the diversion is on the water. A target is strongly fastened to a mast fixed in the middle of the river, and a youngster, standing upright in the stern of a boat, made to move as strong as the oars and current can carry it, is to strike the target with his lance, and if, in hitting it, he break his lance, and keep his place in the boat, he gains his point; but if it happen that the lance is not shattered by the force of the blow, he is, of course, tumbled into the water, and away goes his vessel without him. However, a couple of boats full of young men are placed on each side of the target, ready to pick him up the moment he comes to the surface. The bridge and the balconies on the banks are filled with spectators, whose business it is to laugh. On holidays the pastime of the youth is to exercise themselves in archery, running, leaping, wrestling, casting of stones, flinging to certain distances, and, lastly, with bucklers. The maidens, as soon as the moon rises, dance to the guitar. In the winter holidays the youth are entertained with boats fighting to the last gasp, and likewise with hogs, full tusked, or game bulls, and bears of large bulk are baited with dogs. And when that vast lake which waters London to the north, Fensbury (Finsbury), is hard frozen, the youth in great numbers go to divert themselves on the ice. Some will make a large cake of ice, and, seating one of their companions upon it, they take hold of one another's hands, and draw him along. Sometimes they do all fall down headlong. Others place the leg-bones of animals under their feet, by tying them round their ankles, and then, taking a pole shot with iron into their hands, they push themselves forward, and are carried with a velocity equal to the flight of a bird, or a bolt discharged from a cross-bow. Sometimes two of them start opposite to each other at a great distance. They meet, elevate their poles, attack, and strike each other, when one or both of them fall; and even after their fall they shall be carried a good distance from each other by the rapidity of the motion. Many of the citizens take great delight in fowling with merlins, hawks, and such like, and likewise in hunting, and they have a right and privilege of hunting in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and all the Chiltern country, and in Kent as far as the river Krav."

Such were the sports of our stout ancestors in London, in the days of Cœur de Lion, nearly seven hundred years ago. Our ancestors, however, were a sad set of savages; for, shortly after, we find a mob rushing into the tower, and dragging out the Archbishop of Canterbury, and murdering him on Tower-hill. "There lay his body unburied all that Friday, and the morrow till we kept a Norway bear, which he had received as a present." His head these wicked tooks, and having thereon his hood, they fix it on a pole, and set it on London-bridge." So poor also were our ancestors about this period, that we kept a Norway bear, which he had received as a present. "and he also commanded them to provide a muzzle for the said bear, and an iron chain to hold him out of the water, and likewise a long and stout cord to hold him whilst fishing in the River Thames. Two years after he ordered the sheriff to erect a house forty feet long by twenty feet wide, for the reception of an elephant which had been sent to him by Lewis, King of France." Of this huge beast, the first seen in England, great complaints were made by our simple ancestors, the sheriffs representing that "verily this monstrous beast from Ind does consume marvellously the provisions, eating up the substance of many worshipful gentlemen, and it does sorely distress his

Majesty's loyal servants. We do humbly wish we were well rid of it, so please Providence, and be it his Majesty's pleasure." The bear supported itself by fishing in the Thames, which, at that period, was replete with large fish, and particularly of salmon. The practice of "carting" in the city, we trace to the year 1383, the seventh of Richard II. "The citizens of London first imprisoned such women as were taken in fornication or adultery, in the Tunny prison, in Cornhill, and after carried them to be brought forth in the sight of the world. They caused their heads to be shaven after the manner of the nuns, and so to be led about the city, with trumpets and pipes sounding before them, that their persons might be more largely known. Neither did they spare the men." In November, 1552 (Elizabeth), we find, by the records of the Court of Aldermen, "It was this day ordered and agreed that Sir Thomas Sowerley, who did not deny, but playfully confess, this day, in full Court, that he had kept, and viciously and carnally used, an harlot in his house a long time, manning her to be his wife, shall to-morrow be carried about the city in a cart, with a ray hode on his head, a whyle rode in his hands, and banners and pannes ringings before him, according to the law and ancient customs of this good city, in such case made, provided, and used." So strong was the antipathy against acting as to women, that, in 1622, Pryme denounced all female actors under the words, "women actors notorious w—s." But shortly after the queen acted in a private Pastoral, and the passage being thought applicable to her Majesty, the author was severely punished. But while these "cartings" were practised for sexual guilt, ladies and gentlemen deemed it no great disgrace to be drunk. James I. gave a most splendid entertainment to Christian IV. of Denmark, his wife's brother. Sir J. Harrington says, "We had women and wine too, of such plenty as would have astonished a sober beholder. Our toasts were magnificent, and our two royal guests did most lovingly embrace each other at table. I think the Dane had wrought on our good English nobles, for they do wallow in beastly delight. The ladies do abandon their sobriety, and do roll about in intoxication. A great feast was held, and after-noon was represented the Queen of Sheba. The lady (Sallybury), who did play the Queen, did carry most precious gifts to both their Majesties, but overset her caskets into his Danish Majesty's lap, and fell in his face. Much was the confusion, but napkins were at hand to wipe all clean. His Majesty then got up, and would dance with the Queen of Sheba, but he fell down, and was carried to an inner chamber, and laid on a bed of state, which was not a little defiled. The show went forward, and most of the presences went backwards, or fell down, wine did so occupy their upper chambers." Such was a court entertainment of those days; and the king and queen rolling on the floor tipsy was no uncommon sight.

EXCELLENCE OF YAKKEE RIFLE SHOOTING.—It appears, in the United States Gazette, that Major G. W. Collamer, of Barre, on the 14th of August, 1858, shot an apple from the bare head of Mr. H. Ingram, at the distance of twenty-seven yards, with a rifle. Mr. Collamer then took his turn, and Ingram, at the distance, shot an apple from his head. It was done in the presence of a number of respectable gentlemen, who, after fruitless attempts to stop the parties, had the satisfaction to see them come off in safety. The apples were handsomely cut by the ball that the juice and pomace remained in considerable quantities on the hair of their heads.



STAG CHASE THROUGH THE THAMES.

(From an Original Drawing.)

OUR LATEST EDITION.
We beg to announce that a Late Edition of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS, containing all Sporting Matters of interest up to Friday night, is now published.

SATURDAY MORNING.

In time for the early Morning Train.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TURF—H. D. (Pawich).—The rules runs thus:—In all bets there must be a possibility to win when the bet is made; if you cannot win when you cannot lose, it is a bad bet. The rules runs thus:—In all bets there must be a possibility to win when the bet is made; if you cannot win when you cannot lose, it is a bad bet.

THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1862.

THE YEAR 1862.

The close of the year should not pass over without a final word on the events marked within its limits. It is not our intention to carry out under this head an extensive review of the year, but to give a glance at a few of its prominent features, and to offer a few remarks thereon.

An event of no minor importance in the year was the launching of the Illustrated Sporting News. It was a new venture, and one which we have no doubt will be successful. The success of the undertaking is now patent, and we have some reason to look back with pride on the work we have done.

The wonderful growth of rational amusements has been a subject on which we have commented more than once. It is a subject which we shall not persevere in a progressive spirit, and seek by legitimate means to further elevate all that can tend to lighten the hours of relaxation of every individual.

We ask our readers to turn over our pages, from the one that contained that sad tidings to the one on which their eyes now rest, and tell us candidly if we have not accurately represented the facts of the case.

The next call for notice was given by the match between Parnell and George King, for £100, which took place in March last. This was another memorable contest, and following closely on the heels of the previous one, it was a most interesting and profitable one for the spectators.

thoroughly condemned on all sides as it deserved to be. Notwithstanding this the Indian has proved a brilliant pedestrian, and one who had no reason to regret his failure in order to earn a livelihood. Perhaps, on the whole, the year has been a successful one for the Indian, and one which has done much to advance the cause of the race.

THE TURF.

THE TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS STAKES.

The first fifty contest for the 2,000 will take place on the twenty-first of the month of April, and will be one of the most important events of the year. The success of the contest will depend on the quality of the horses, and on the skill of the jockeys.

| Yr. | The Two Thousand. | First. | Second. | The Derby. | First. | Second. |
|------|-------------------|----------|-------------|------------|---------------|----------|
| 1860 | The Wizard. | Pope. | The Wizard. | Ashton. | Middlethorpe. | Recolle. |
| 1861 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1862 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1863 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1864 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |

| | | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1865 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1866 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1867 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1868 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |
| 1869 | Hepton. | Whalton. | The Dandy. | Octavian. | Recolle. | Recolle. |

With these preliminary remarks we will at once proceed to an analysis of the several trials held in the approaching race, commencing alphabetically with the horses.

ALMAKES, b.c by Wild Dancer, out of Sagacity; nominated by Mr. W. G. Craven. CARRIAGE, ch c by Barton or Ethelbert, out of Ada; Mr. W. G. Craven. This first couple may readily be disposed of with the comment that neither have the slightest pretension to achieve a victory in anything above third-rate competition, and may consider their running to plates or selling races.

Though so frequently defeated last season, and sold at the Worcester July Meeting for 216 gns. only, after winning his maiden race, beating four bad ones, we still think that Abernethy will make a tolerable three-year-old, but of course not enough for a race of this calibre; yet it is far away better than Basella.

CLARION, b.c by De Clare, out of Clarissa; Lord Glasgow. **CLIGHT BOB**, b.c by Voltigeur, dam by Orlando, out of Brown Bess; Lord Glasgow.

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OLYMPIC GAMES.

If there is one idea of the ancient Greeks which certainly deserves our respect, it is their institution of games and amusements as a religious and national duty; an idea which has exalted them far above later generations in a physical and comparative point of view. There was an amount of political wisdom about the whole idea from beginning to end, which is worthy of our highest consideration as an example to be followed. Unlike the brutal exhibitions of the gladiatorial combats of the Romans, the games of the Greeks were of such a refined class as to elevate and ennoble the mind, while bringing the body up to a standard to sustain mental exercise. When the wise philosophers of ancient Greece so strongly urged the introduction of national festivals of games and amusements into every republic; when Hercules, Pollux, Castor, Theseus, and other heroes of antiquity assisted to institute, restore, and share in the games; when kings and legislators contended with the humblest Grecian citizen, they left our more modern age a lesson worthy of emulation. Made a characteristic and an institution, the games were peculiar value in a physical point of view; the tendency to a mild savagery, however, was a bar to such moral effects as might have been anticipated by their originators. By nature warlike, the Greeks introduced these games for the noble purpose of preparing the youth for the use of arms; to improve their strength and stamina; to render them intrepid in any close fight where skill would succumb to muscle, and to give an opportunity to the humblest to win the laurels from his sovereign, if capable. I am inclined to think, also, that the games were originated for bringing into mutual intercourse friends and foes, where they would meet on an equal ground of truth to compete for honours; thus tending to subdue any ill-feelings, and wearing out many a hard thought of revenge, and giving strangers distant from one another an opportunity of acquiring information which could not be obtained elsewhere. The evidence of this is to be seen in the writings of the old Grecian authors. They nearly all mention the commingling of different nations and even enemies, and certify to its benefits.

Greece had four great national festivals: the Olympic, dedicated to Jupiter, after his defeat of the Titans; the Pythian, to Apollo; the Nemean, to Archemorus, originally, but to Hercules after the destruction of the Nemean lion; and the Isthmian, dedicated to Neptune. The Olympic games were so called from Olympia, a town of Elis, in Peloponnesus, near which place they were celebrated after the expiration of every fourth year. The interval between every four years of the celebration of the games was called an Olympiad. The Olympic games held the first place in the estimation of the Greeks, because they were dedicated to the most supreme of the gods, were instituted by Hercules, and more largely attended than any of the other three. So large was the concourse, that for days and days previous to the festival's constant flocking of people to Olympia, and more largely attended than any of the other three. So large was the concourse, that for days and days previous to the festival's constant flocking of people to Olympia, and more largely attended than any of the other three. So large was the concourse, that for days and days previous to the festival's constant flocking of people to Olympia, and more largely attended than any of the other three.

Pausanias informs us that no woman was allowed to witness the Olympic games, under penalty of death; nor was a woman even permitted to approach near the place, or pass on that side of the river Alpheus. One woman did get in, when disguised, and was tried for the offence; but in consequence of her father, brother, and sons, and having all been victors in the Olympic games, she was pardoned. The reason women were excluded was, that some of the games, such as wrestling and Pankration, were fought by the combatants in a naked state. The ladies of Greece, however, were more reserved, and had a little less curiosity to see what was denied them than those of the present age, and Bolland concludes that this life was very conformable with Grecian manners, as the women went so far as to stand by the river, and when strangers were present—shocking depravity! by the bye, in another place, Pausanias tells us, in the same district, Ceres had a seat in these games, and that a virgin was not denied the liberty of being present. This is rather a bit of contradiction.

In these games certain persons were appointed to take care that all things were done according to custom, to decide controversies occurring among the antagonists, to adjust the prize to the victor—in fact, these persons were the first "umpires," and acted as such. Victory in the Olympic games was the very pinnacle of the Grecian ambition. Cicero says "that with them it was no less honourable than the consular dignity in its original splendour, with the ancient Romans." And again he says, "that to conquer at Olympia was almost, in the opinion of the Greeks, more great and glorious than to receive the honour of a triumph at Rome." Horace says of this victory, "It exalts the victor above human nature; they were no longer men, but gods." To give a little more perspective to the subject, I will divide it into parts, and mention the most particular things under their respective headings.

THE COMBATANTS. Were called *Athletae*, from the Greek of "combatant." None but Greeks were permitted to contend for the prizes, and even Alexander, son of Amyntas, King of Macedonia, was refused recognition, because he was Macedonian, "and not till he had proved, in due form, his family originally descended from the Argives would the judges be prevailed upon to admit him," and that with great dissimulation. The other proofs necessary were as follows: They must be freeborn, clear from all infamous and immoral stains, and of unexceptionable character. Even relation to a criminal would exclude.

The course of training was very strict and regular. They were obliged to attend the *Gymnasia* or *Palaestra*—maintained at public expense—where they were exercised under diligent masters. The regimen consisted of a kind of bare called *stoma*, soft shoes, flaps and nuts; no weapons permitted, and no costume required. They were clothed with oilments and oil, and passed a severe course of restraint and endurance. They passed a kind of initiation in the *Gymnasia* for ten months; this they did in the presence of such as curiosity or idleness conducted to look on. But when the celebration of the Olympic games drew nigh, the athletes were to appear, were kept to double exercise. They were obliged to enroll their names some time beforehand, to swear that they had exercised properly during the assigned ten months; and had to assemble at Elis, three days before the festival, to test their skill. Before the games commenced, a herald proclaimed, "that they would use no unlawful means to obtain the prize, but scrupulously observe the established laws. The universal motto of 'all is fair in war,' was the very reverse of their law, and cunning and deceit were never resorted to for the sake of victory."

These established the *Palaestra* or schools of instruction for wrestling, and gave the exercise a method. Milo, of Crotona, and Polydamus, were the best celebrated Grecian wrestlers. The latter killed a large lion on Mount Olympus, and once again he held a ball so fast by the use of the hands only. They fought three times successively, and whoever their opponent twice was defeated, he was considered a victor. The Greek wrestlers thought it a great idea to drop down at an antagonist's feet, and kiss him. This Pausanias says, "He is a dangerous wrestler, he presently takes one by the heels."

Boxing was frequently used to wrestles, and was sometimes of so brutal a character, that it led to the death of one of the combatants. Their fists were bound with the *cestus*, which was a thong glove, or piece of hide, loaded

with lead; and as a means of defence, they wore on their heads a leathern or brass cap to deaden the violence of the blow. The Greeks held this art in very little estimation, and it was much more brutal boxing of our day. Damocles, a champion of the *cestus*, having cruelly slain his adversary, was refused the prize, and driven from the stadium of course, while his dead victim was crowned in silence by the judges. Lucilius has an epigram which says of a *cestus* fighter that he became so disfigured that his identity couldn't be established, and he lost an inheritance to a younger brother.

Homer describes a combat of boxing, that of Egeus and Eurycleus; Theocritus that of Pollux and Amyntas; and Virgil that of Dares and Eutelus. The Pankration united boxing and wrestling in the same fight, and combined skill and strength in a most rude and dangerous manner. A Pankratist in the Olympic games, called *Arrichion*, broke one of his enemy's toes while he was holding him by the feet at the very moment when victory seemed against him. The great pain of this obliged his opponent to sue for quarter just as Arrichion expired. The judges proclaimed the latter victor, and crowned him though dead.

THE DISCUS, OR QUOIT. Was made of wood, iron, brass, or stone, and usually of a round or oval form, about three inches thick, and so heavy that Homer tells us that it was "too heavy to be carried to place to place in the hands only." Those who used it were termed *Discoboloi*, which means flinging the discus. He who threw it the farthest won the prize.

THE PENTATHLON. Consisted of leaping, running, wrestling, throwing the discus and the javelin. The prize was only given to whoever succeeded in all of these exercises. I am inclined to believe that the leaping at these games was performed by aid of a pole, as Eustathius mentions an inscription on a statue of Phaulos of Crotona, which asserts that he leaped a distance of 550 ft. Chionis, the Spartan, also leaped 250 ft. "The leapers performed to the sound of flutes playing *Pythian airs*."

RACES. The Olympic games usually opened with races, which held the very first rank, as it was the most ancient. The athletes ran in the *Stadion*, which at first was but one stadium in length. (Pliny says a stadium was 625 ft.) The foot races ended at the end of the stadium, but the chariot or horse races were four or five times round without stopping.

At the foot race, however, varied as to the distance to be run. Some of them were twice the length of the stadium, and one especially consisted of twenty-

not an indifferent circumstance to the victory; for being to turn round a boundary, the chariot on the left was nearer than that on the right, which consequence had a greater chance of success. The chariot was to stop at the stadium, and he that came in first in the twelfth round was proclaimed victor. The danger in the race was very great; the chariot was liable to be dashed to pieces by a too sudden turn, or by the reins being too tight. Some authors say that an artifice was employed to frighten the horses when they reach a certain point, so as to put to the most severe test the skill of the driver. "The chief art consisted in taking the reins too tight, and the turning of the boundary; for if the chariot drove too near it, he was in danger of dashing the chariot to pieces; and I kept too wide of it his nearest antagonist might cut the way upon him and get foremost."

THE PRIZES TO THE VICTORS. Instead of the large purses, gold cups, &c., of our day, the Grecians simply received a wreath of wild olive, juniper, parsley, or laurel, also a branch of palm, which they carried in their right hands. This carrying of the palm, Pausanias says, arose from the nature of the palm tree, which displays new vigour the more endeavours are used to crush and bend it, and is a symbol of the champion's courage and resistance in the attainment of the prize. "When the victor had received the crown and palm a herald preceded by a trumpet conducted him through the stadium, and proclaimed his name and country, while the people applauded him. When he returned home all the people would meet him, and drive him in a chariot drawn by four horses. A breach was made in the walls of the city, through which he entered instead of through the gates. Feasts were made for the victors and their relations; their friends or their country perpetuated their glory after death by erecting monuments in the sacred grove of the Olympic Jupiter; to their memory poets composed odes in their praise, and the people sang them. Their names were enrolled in the public register, and the combats which they had won. Pindar, and before him Simonides, tuned their lyres in praise of the Olympic victor. The crown in the Olympic games was of wild olive most generally, and was placed upon the victor's head.

Diogenes of Rhodes, himself an Olympic victor, brought two of his sons to the games, who, on receiving the crowns they had won, placed them on the head of their father, lifted him on their shoulders, and bore him in triumph along the stadium. The spectators threw flowers and garlands on them. Diogenes' lot for thus having nothing to wish; a complimentary exclamation which was unfortunately fulfilled, for the old man, overcome by his happiness, expired in sight of the assembly of the Olympic victors, who basked in their tears."

We thus see that the Grecians considered victory in these games the very height of glory. Anacharsis tells us (cap. 38), "In certain places the victors had a competent subsistence furnished to them from the public treasury; in others they were exempt from all taxes; at Lacedaemon, where every distinction was of a warlike nature, they had the honour to combat near the king; almost everywhere they had precedence at the local games; and the title of Olympic victor added to their names, insured them an attentive respect, which constituted the happiness of their families, and the glory of the victors in the chariot races were perpetuated in fame. A monument was erected to one man called Aura, who, after having his rider, ran the whole course alone, and, coming in, first, ran to where the judges were and passed them, as if conscious of her victory."

The Queen of Greece, a few years ago, issued an order to revive the Olympic games, but it cannot say with what result. Greece became so politically impoverished, at last, that, with the aid of Christianity, the Olympic games died down to the former state of a mere festival. The desire for glory as a Grecian festival. If the reader desires to know more about this festival, I refer him to the various histories of Greece, and especially to the Odes of Pindar.

SWIMMING.

LONDON SWIMMING CLUB.

It is a pity that on Friday next there will be a match for a silver star, the joint gift of Messrs. Underhill and Williamson, and the members of the club will bestir themselves and muster in numbers, the object of those gentlemen will be attained.

The last race for swimming in clothes proved so attractive that it was determined to repeat it. The distance will be twelve lengths of Enderell-street baths. The clothes not to weigh less than 5 lbs.—Jones, the winner of the last race, being the object of the club being to give every member a chance, and may the best man win. We should be glad to see a swimmer, and very useful art patronised more than it is. It forms a part of the duty of man to join some swimming club, of which there are several in the metropolis, the water in winter being made genial for the purpose of bathing. When the persons visit prize-lists, races, &c., swimming is greatly neglected. Thousands have lost their lives in the sea, while sailors, and thousands have been saved by men who have learned this necessary and easily-acquired art. The danger, when taken with accounts of disastrous shipwrecks, and details of lives lost which might have been saved. Mr. Woodbridge, with only one leg, has saved several lives, and been liberally rewarded.

Now think it difficult to swim, but under proper instruction any person can be taught to swim in eight lessons; experience then remains with the person himself.

We hope our readers will commence it at once, for reflection frequently comes too late. It takes little time to learn, and adds years of invigorating and healthy life. The London Swimming Club will shortly issue a new prospectus, which can be had by application to the secretary, 18, Cross-street, Hutton-garden.

PEDESTRIANISM.

MATCHES TO COME.

- DECEMBER.
26—Deerfoot and Mills—to run six miles, £25 a side and the champion belt, Hackney Wick.
26—Houtie and Thomas—to walk two miles and run two miles, one start, £10 a side, Dublin.
26—Several running matches, for various prizes, Garratt-st.
26—Roberts and Thompson—to run a mile, £10 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Draper and Thomas—100 yds, £5 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Brown and Yates—125 yds, £5 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Reynolds and Yardley—120 yds, £5 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Jones and Nicholls—120 yds, £5 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Freeman and Horton—120 yds, £5 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Peasman and an Unknown—to walk seven miles, £25 a side, East Ham.
26—Cricket Ground, Hackney Wick.
26—Ray and Thompson—440 yds, £10 a side, St. George's Race Ground, Henley.
26—Sturgeon and Stevens—125 yds, £10 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Evans and Nash—125 yds, £5 a side, Aston Cross.
26—Gordon and Teller—100 yds, £5 a side, Wall Heath.
26—Several running matches, for money prizes, Chalk Farm.
26—Andrews and Spooner—to run nine laps round Hackney Wick course, £10 a side, Hackney Wick.
26—Corkey and Shepherd—to run nine laps round Hackney Wick course, £10 a side, Hackney Wick.
26—All England 120 yds handicap, several money prizes, Hyde Park Grounds, Leed.
26—27—Handicap race, 135 yds, £5 in money prizes, Hyde Park.
26—27—Handicap race, 140 yds, for several money prizes, Warren House, Lindley Moor, near Huddersfield.
26—27—Handicap race, 140 yds, £10 and other prizes, Trent Bridge, Nottingham.
27—Holt and Ogden—200 yds, £20 a side, Hignisham, Oldham.
27—Beddow and Hancock—140 yds, £25 a side, Salford.
27—Howarth and Walker—100 yds, £5 a side, Howarth to have one yard start, Salford.
27—Foxcroft and Thompson—to walk four miles, £15 a side, Zoological Gardens, Liverpool.
27—A three mile handicap race, £5, Brompton.
27—Simons and Smith—200 yds, £15 a side, Park Inn, Prestwich.
27—Barrett and Eastgate—half a mile, £5 a side, Aston Cross.

PETER CRAWLEY.

(From a Photograph by George Newbold, Strand.)

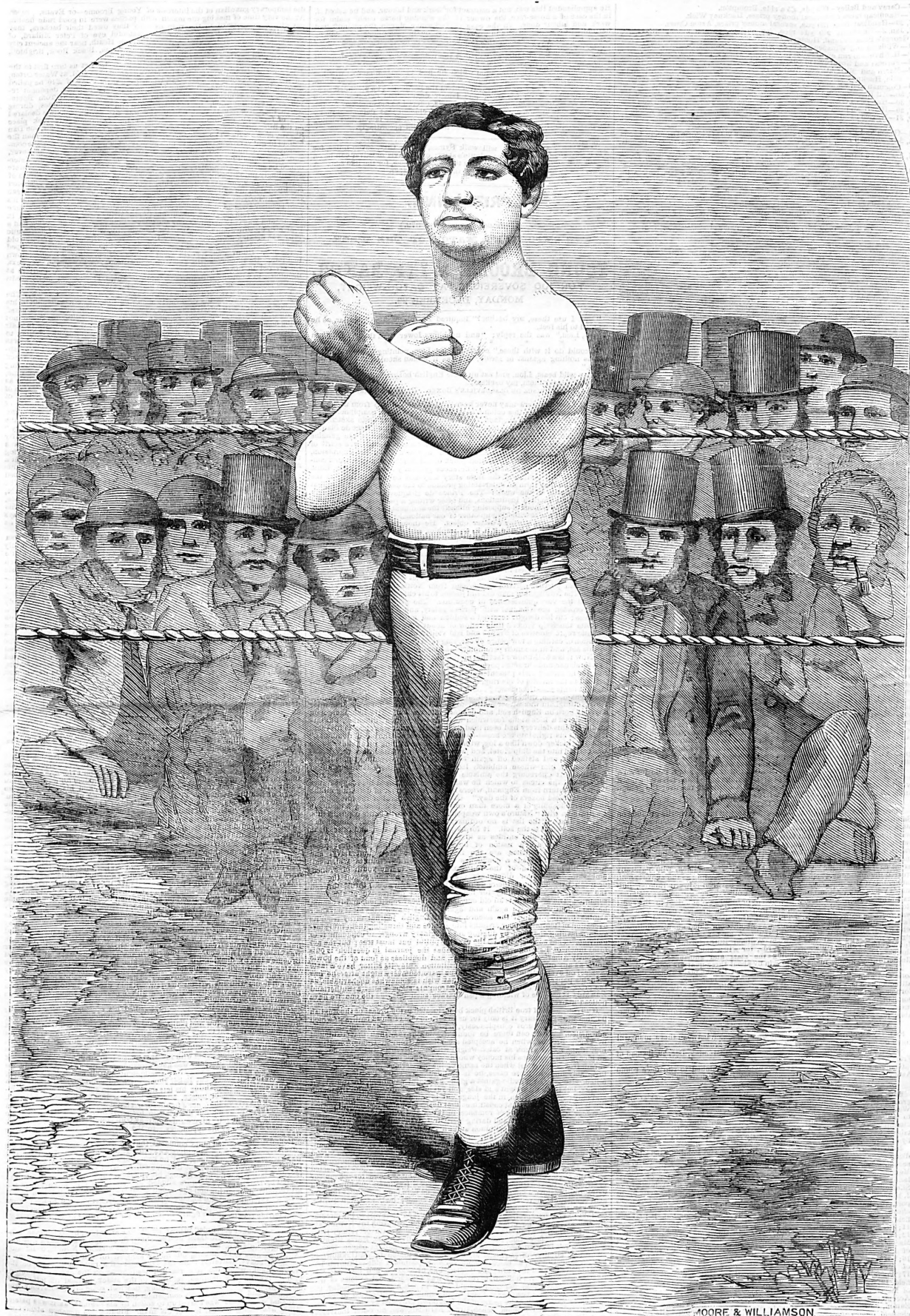


four stadia backwards and forwards, turning twelve times round the goal. The Greeks and Romans valued many of celebrated swift runners. Piny and Herodotus mention various cases. The horse races were in high repute also. Pindar, in his first Ode, celebrates a victory of this kind, obtained by Hiero, King of Syracuse. The riders sometimes led another horse by the bridle, and vaulted from one to the other. Of course saddles or stirrups were then unknown, and nothing was allowed on the horse's back to ease the rider.

The chariot races were contested for by men of high rank generally, and the spectacle was of a more pompous character than any of the other sports. Sovereigns and republics enrolled themselves among the competitors and trusted their glory to able charioteers. Itolin says of these races, "It is plain they were derived from the constant custom of princes, heroes, and great men fighting in battle in chariots. Seleno and Hiero, kings of Syracuse, and Dionysius, thought nothing superior to victory in these races. Philip of Macedonia had three victories stamped upon his brow, and 2 children, the celebrated Athenian general, entered seven chariots at one festival, three of which gained victory. Pindar grants of forty chariots running at one time. When Alexander the Great was asked if he intended to enter these races, he replied, 'Yes, if kings are to be my antagonists.'"

Ladies were allowed to compete for these prizes, and if fair play had been given them, I'm sure the fair ones of Greece would have conquered the race, as surely as the fair ones of the nineteenth century do every day. The sister of Agamemnon, king of Sparta, won a race of four horses in this contest. She was the first woman who ever won one of these prizes, and a splendid monument was erected in Sparta in honor of the occasion—the "woman's ring" class, I suppose. She herself dedicated a chariot in brass, drawn by four horses, in the Temple of Delphos. In process of time her own picture was annexed to it, and the whole adorned with many inscriptions in honour of that Spartan heroine.

The chariots were drawn by two or four horses, placed in a row, and started from a place called *Carrera*. Their positions were decided by lot, which was



MOORE & WILLIAMSON

YOUNG BROOME.

(From a Photograph by G. R. Melton, Aldershot.)

